



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

No. 198

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the fountain of truth and wisdom, thank You for the yearning You have placed in our hearts for peace on Earth to those with whom You are pleased.

Today, equip our Senators for the task before them. Help them strive to make the rough places of our Nation and world smooth and the crooked places straight.

Lord, give them the wisdom to be guided by conscience and not contention. Empower them to disagree without being disagreeable. May they never swerve from the straight and narrow path of Your prevailing providence.

We pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of R. Russell Rumbaugh, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have good news. With days left before Christmas, Democrats and Republicans have reached an omnibus agreement, completed at 1:15 a.m. early this morning.

In the very early hours of the morning, Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member SHELBY released a long-sought, bipartisan, bicameral Omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2023.

The omnibus is the last thing we have to do to close out a very success-

ful 117th Congress, and we have taken another step—a major step—towards reaching the goal line.

After a lot of hard work, this package represents an aggressive investment in American families, American workers, and America's national defense. It will give our troops a raise, make healthcare more affordable for millions, and it fulfills the promise Democrats made to defend democracy at home and abroad through the ECA.

It was no easy feat to piece this bill together, and if our amazing appropriator staff needs a quick power nap at their desks this morning, no one is going to blame them.

I want to thank Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member SHELBY for working on this omnibus for months without cease. I can't think of a more fitting sendoff for our two esteemed appropriators than this. If this omnibus goes down as Senators LEAHY and SHELBY's final legislative contribution as Senators, then I say bravo, thank you, and well done.

I also want to thank my colleagues in the House—above all, Speaker PELOSI and Chair DELAUNO for their relentless work.

The clock is now ticking until government funding runs out this Friday. Between now and the end of the week, the watchwords for the Senate will be "speed" and "cooperation."

For the information of Senators, we are going to get going on this process today. Members should be ready to vote to lay the omnibus before the Senate as soon as this afternoon. We must finish passing this omnibus before the deadline on Friday, when government funding runs out, but we hope to do it much sooner than that because we are mindful that a nor'easter is barreling down the east coast on Thursday and Friday.

Let me say this again. The sooner we pass the omnibus, the better. We have until Friday before funding runs out, but we ought to get it done well before then.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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